

Hindu Centre

Jnana • Bhakti • Seva

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FOR THE PERIOD

01 JAN – 31 DEC 2023

Presented at the
46th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 29 JUNE 2024

***Hindu Centre is dedicated to
the spiritual growth and progress of
of Singapore Hindus through
the three pillars of Jnana, Bhakti and Seva***

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1 Introduction

The Management Committee for 2023 is delighted to present its report to members and other stakeholders.

2023 has been one of the most active years that the Hindu Centre has ever seen, with an increase in both the number and variety of events designed to attract people from all walks of life. The Centre premises are a hive of activity not just during the weekend, but also during weekdays. In addition to the physical sessions, many online and hybrid activities were conducted.

One of the landmark achievements during the year was the revival of our Youth Wing, called Yuvashakti, which has recruited youth leaders who are planning education and seva programmes aimed at the younger generation. An appreciation dinner and recognition event was held for our dedicated volunteers and partners who have helped Hindu Centre with their yeoman service and support.

Among our unique offerings in 2023, we also organised a very successful Yatra of holy places in South India and conducted a pre-loved sari collection, donation and sale which raised funds for Hindu Centre as well as benefitted many foreign domestic workers.

2 Management Committee (MC)

At the Annual General Meeting held on 04 June 2023, the following were elected to the Management Committee for a two-year period:

1. Mr Ravi Seethepalli
2. Mrs Shanthi Ravindran
3. Mr Manogar Kannappan
4. Mr Karthik Tirupathi
5. Mr Rajesh Kumar
6. Dr N Varaprasad

The following members continued to serve their 2-year term from the 2022 AGM:

7. Mr J Balasubramaniam
8. Mr Srinivas Bobba
9. Mr Samar Sunil Wadia
10. Dr Medha Kudaisya
11. Mrs Shanti Rajaram
12. Dr Uma Natarajan

However, Mr J Balasubramaniam resigned in June 2023, and he was replaced by Mr R Devanand for the balance of his term.

The MC also co-opted the following into the MC, giving a bench strength of 16.

13. Ms S Anuradha
14. Mr Shankar Rajan
15. Mr Manu Kohli
16. Dr Dinesh Nigam

At its first meeting, the following office-bearers were elected from among the MC members.

President:	Dr N Varaprasad
Vice-President:	Mr Srinivas Bobba
Vice-President:	Mr Manogar Kannappan
Hon Secretary:	Dr Uma Natarajan
Hon Treasurer:	Mr Samar Wadia
Hon Asst Secretary:	Mr Ravi Seethepalli
Hon Asst Treasurer:	Mr Karthik Tirupathi

In addition, other functions were allocated as follows:

Jnana pillar:	Ms Shanthi Ravindran
Bhakti pillar:	Mr Shankar Rajan
Seva pillar:	Mr M Kannappan
Volunteers:	Ms Shanti Rajaram
Balagurukulam:	Mr Ravi Seethepalli
Publications:	Dr Medha Kudaisya
Book Sales	Ms S Anuradha
Partnerships:	Mr Rajesh Kumar
IT and Data:	Mr Ravi Seethepalli
Yuvashakti	Mr R Devanand

3 Membership

At the end of 2023, Hindu Centre had a total of 121 members, with 97 Life members (LM), an increase of 9 over 2022, and 24 Ordinary members (OM), an increase of 3. This represents an increase of 11% in membership. Nine new Life members joined during the year.

4 Treasurer's Report

(i) Centre's Financial Health

The Hindu Centre management committee & volunteers have made concerted and successful efforts to maximise the quality and number of the Centre's activities for the benefit of the community. Some of the results of these efforts are reflected in the full-year financial statements for FY2023.

Hindu Centre had a relatively good year financially in 2023, compared to the previous year.

Total assets grew over \$33,000 in 2023 from \$1,640,135 at the end of 2022 to \$1,673,592, while total liabilities remained under 0.2% of Total Assets.

Our total revenues increased to almost \$125,000 in 2023, compared to under \$80,000 in 2022. This represents a remarkable jump up of over 55% versus the previous year.

Even more hearteningly, our total comprehensive income for the year 2023 was a positive \$34,371 compared to a loss of \$29,948 in 2022.

Our main source of revenue in 2023 remains donations and contributions, which totalled \$60,044, followed by revenues from community activities, investments, and membership fees.

The financial position of the Centre is adequate for it to continue serving the community at its current pace for the foreseeable future.

There is sufficient liquidity, and a reasonable proportion of its liquid assets have been invested in a conservative, diversified portfolio in order to generate returns that can potentially help mitigate the effects of rising inflation.

(ii) Investments and Investment Committee

During 2021, the MC established and approved the Centre's Investment and Reserves Policy and the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Investment Committee (IC) and its composition. The IC comprises the incumbent President as Chairman, the incumbent Treasurer as Secretary, two appointed Life members and one other member from the MC. The members of the Investment Committee so appointed were:

1. Dr N Varaprasad (Chairman)
2. Mr Samar Wadia (Treasurer)
3. Mr Ram K Gupta (Life member)

4. Mr Mahesh Menon (Life member)
5. Mr Srinivas Bobba (nominee of MC)

The Centre's reserves are currently invested as follows at end December 2023:

Singapore Government Securities (Bonds)	\$450,407.50	55.85%
STI ETF	\$165,500.00	20.52%
Eastspring Singapore Select Bond Fund Class A	\$ 88,189.40	10.93%
PineBridge Singapore Bond Fund (SGD Unit Trust)	\$ 88,012.58	10.91%
Cash	\$ 14,416.97	1.78%
Total	\$806,526.45	100.00%

As noted in the Investment Committee's report, it was decided to withdraw \$25,000 from the investible funds towards HC's operating budget.

5 Constitutional Amendments/Bye-Laws and Regulations

MCCY and ROS have approved our amended Constitution which was passed in September 2022 with minor changes. The new Constitution came into effect from September 2023.

Concurrently, the Management Committee established a set of Bye-Laws and Regulations to govern the operations of the Centre. These currently cover membership categories, fees and subscriptions, use of premises, use of Shaw Foundation library, and the registration and protection of our volunteers.

6 Jnana Pillar

HC's Education Committee or Educom, led by Shanthi Ravindran, had a busy and fulfilling year in 2023, running 56 classes (total of 111 sessions), more than two sessions per week on average, experimenting with many different types and genres, collaborating with HC's own internal groups and with the external community of teachers, students, Hindu and yoga groups.

The programming of classes was re-structured into 5 main streams to provide knowledge seekers with a wide variety of Hinduism knowledge in a way that is unique to Hindu Centre and reaches out to varied target groups.

1. Hinduism Life and Living - Hinduism Learning deep dive into various topics:
 - Knowledge - Dharma, Values, Vaishnava texts, Shaiva Thirumurai etc.
 - Prayer - Puja, Tarpanam, Mindfulness etc
 - Chanting - Slokas and Stotras

- Satsanga - Shaiva, Vaishnava, etc.
2. Hinduism Alive - A wide variety of contemporary topics
 - Ponninyin Selvan, Aurobindo, Sundara Kandam, Sita in Ramayana etc
 - Margazhi, Dakshinamurti, Symbolism etc.
 3. Vedic Yoga
 - Tuesday Yoga classes - run with support from Vyasa Yoga
 - Workshops - 1 day retreat, Yoga for the back, belly fat reduction, chair Yoga
 - Kids Yoga - 1 quarter Saturday morning classes with Vyasa Yoga
 - Seeds of Yoga - Patanjali's Yoga Sutras
 - Dance Yoga - as part of Navaratri
 4. Pustaka – Indic book club
 - Krishna 108 - Launched by Mr Ranvir Singh
 - Chickpeas to cook - Ms Nilanjana Sengupta
 - Health, Happiness, Harmony - Ms Archana Amlapure
 5. Arts and Culture
 - Singing the Thiruppugazh
 - Dancing the garba, bhangra, Thiruvathira
 - Garland making
 - Naivedyam making
 - Taranga - our very own dance troupe

Pustaka sessions were organised quarterly to a growing community of book lovers. A variety of classes around culture attracted many participants. We continued our successful kids holiday funfest and introduced yoga for young people.

External engagement: In addition to our internally developed classes, we have introduced many classes from the community, increasing our visibility outside. We had eight internal teachers teaching one class each and four teachers teaching multiple classes. The rest of the classes were taught by external teachers. We expanded our community partnerships to include Vyasa Yoga, and Sanskrit Bharati.

Popular classes: Some of our classes were very popular. Our first ever mindfulness half day workshop attracted 20 people, including youngsters and seniors, our Tarpanam class also had more than 20 students. Our garland-making class and Sanskrit classes both attracted more than 30 people. We started a Satsanga series with regular attendance of 20 people.

Taranga: A new initiative of EduCom, Taranga is a movement-based activity. It was launched at the volunteer appreciation event with a traditional Thiruvathira-style dance

from Kerala. We have done devotional dancing for our pujas and kids workshops with Garba and Bhangra, seated choreo bhajans on Krishna and Rama, and dance yoga depicting the powerful figures of our deities in 2023.

Delivery models: The knowledge that we share from Hindu Centre should enable our students to go through life, content and happy, with a clear understanding of their goals and purpose in life. To this end, we have tried to pitch our classes in many ways, teaching knowledge and lifeskills, focused on various aspects of this knowledge and more importantly how to practise them in their daily life. We have focused on new delivery models, like half day workshops, where we complement our knowledge, skills training, and ambience with healthy home cooked meals that would encourage people to eat healthy also.





7 Balagurukulam (BG)

Balagurukulam classes are held for kids between the age group of 5 and 15 years. The goal is to teach the basics of Sanatana Dharma, through a series of activities. The children are introduced to epics such as Ramayana and Mahabharata and the key moral stories from these epics. They were also taught the basics of puja, various Hindu festivals, and their significance. **Balagurukulam is headed by Ravi Seethepalli.**

There are two semesters in a year and each semester has 11 classes which are held weekly on Sunday mornings. On an average 35 students have enrolled for the two semesters (80% of them enrolled for both semesters), and kids are grouped as per their age into four classes.

Six volunteer teachers were trained for 6 weeks.

Parents and teachers are very enthusiastic and happy with BG classes, it was evident with work they do post class and share during subsequent classes, some kids have expressed their desire to continue semester after semester, parents have shared that their wards were asking questions related to sanatan dharma and often prompting them to learn/search for answers.

Most parents also expressed their preference for online mode of lessons as it is easy now (post covid). Parents seemed to have the necessary tech support at home and shared that they could save time and effort in commuting for classes.

In October 2023 one class was held at Hindu Centre r where the children got to meet their online classmates after several weeks of online classes. This was very well-received as evidenced by enthusiastic and happy kids seeing their friends in person. For the teachers too, it was a different experience to manage kids in a physical classroom.



8 Bhakti Pillar

The Bhakti Wing focuses its activities on celebrating the key festivals of the Hindu calendar with puja, chanting, bhajans and talks.

During 2023, the Bhakti Wing, led by Shankar Rajan, organised 12 events as given below:

- Vaikunta Ekadesi (Jan and Dec 2023)
- Skanda Shasti (Jan)
- Mahashivaratri (Feb)
- Rama Navami (Mar)

- Mahalakshmi Homam (Apr)
- Gurupurnima (Jul)
- Hanuman Chalisa (Aug)
- Ganesh Chathurti (Sep)
- Navarathri (Oct)
- Vijayadasami (Oct)
- Prayers for the sick and healing (Nov)

A further 100 online talks and chanting sessions were also organised by the Bhakti Wing with an audience of 10-20 for each session. The online sessions include special chanting on Amavasya (Abirami Andadi), Pournami (Lalitasahasranama), Chaturthi (Vinayaka Agaval), Sashti (Kanda Sashti Kavacham), Shivarati (Tevaram, Tiruvasagam). In addition, every month we chant the entire Devi Mahatmya (over 700 verses) and Mooka Panchashati and once a quarter the entire Tiruvasagam. We get chanters from both Singapore and India for these sessions. The on-line sessions are coordinated by S Anuradha and Aruna K.

Bhakti Wing is a well-knit and highly devotional team and are committed to observing our most important religious events.





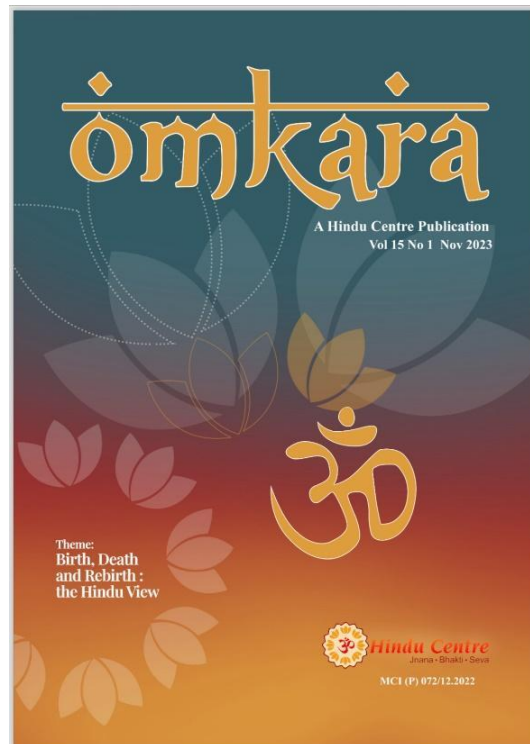
9 Publications

2023 was a busy year for the Research and Publications (R&P) wing of the Hindu Centre, led by Dr Medha Kudaisya.

Omkara Magazine

Members of the team decided to take up a challenging topic for their annual Omkara publication. They decided to look at Hinduism's understanding of life, death and rebirth. The intention was to bring out a publication which would serve as a reference guide for all Sanatanis seeking the eternal truth in keeping with the Hindu Centre's commitment to the spiritual progress of Singapore's Hindus through the three pillars of Jnana, Bhakti and Seva.

This necessitated a fair amount of research on the part of the editors and the authors they invited to write for the publication. The publication which was titled Birth, Death and Rebirth: the Hindu View finally consisted of fourteen sections in all. This included articles on the purpose of life in Hinduism, the concept of Rebirth and on Hinduism as a celebration of life alongside informative chapters such as on birth and death rituals. The publication was enthusiastically received by Hindu Centre members.



Book Publication

2023 saw the official launch of Krishna 108 during one of the Pustaka events. The next book will be on Parenting: the Hindu way.

Patrika

Hindu Centre's e-newsletter was revived in 2023 and was circulated monthly through email and social media. It contains a prayer, record of past HC events, upcoming events as well as articles of current interest such as temples, ayurveda, volunteers, shlokas and so on. Karthik Tirupathi is in charge of Patrika.

10 Seva Pillar

Led by Mr Manogar Kannappan, the Seva Pillar comprises Mitra (Prisons counselling), Bandhu (old folks homes), Chakra (youth on probation) and Mantranam (marriage counselling service).

Mitra

The two main objectives of the Mitra programme continue to be:

- To change the thinking and behaviour of ex-offenders through the teachings of Hinduism, its life values and spiritual practices and thereby support rehabilitation and address reoffending, and
- Promote the strengthening of family ties and bonds between ex-offenders and their loved ones during incarceration.

The Mitra programme volunteers continued their weekly seva to about 230 Mitras in the following institutions:

- Changi Prison Complex, Institution A (Clusters A1, and A2) and Institution B (Cluster B3 and B4);
- Singapore Prison School (Tanah Merah Prison 1);
- Selarang Prison 1;
- Singapore Boys Home;
- Singapore Girls Home;
- The Ashram-drug halfway house run by Hindu Endowments Board

Singapore Prison Service (SPS) Long service awards

Every year, the SPS recognises the dedication and contribution of volunteers in offenders', and ex-offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration journeys with a Long Service award. In August 2023, the following Mitra volunteers received the 10-year and 15-year awards:

- 1) Mr AK Srinivasan (10 years)
- 2) Mr Krishna Sadashiv (10 years)
- 3) Mr Manogar Kannappan (10 years)
- 4) Ms Nandini Sampathkumar
- 5) Mr Ramakrishnan Thimmaiyah
- 6) Ms Seetha Lakshmi
- 7) Ms Yashodhara Dhoraisingam (15 years)



The Mitra programme would like to record its grateful thanks to the award recipients and all serving Mitra volunteers for their dedicated seva.

14th Mitra volunteer training sessions

In August 2023, recruitment of new volunteers had begun to meet the needs of Mitra teams that required additional volunteers. 20 interested volunteers were selected and 14 of them were able to complete their training over eight Saturday sessions for deployment to Mitra teams that required support, namely at clusters A1, B3, B4, TM1, S1C, and the Singapore Girls' home.

Visit by the Minister of State, Dr Faishal Ibrahim

On 28 November 2023, Minister of State Dr Faishal Ibrahim met with five Mitra volunteers at the Hindu Centre. The primary purpose of the visit was for MOS Faishal to better understand the work done by the Mitra programme and the in-care and aftercare challenges faced by our volunteers.



Bandhu

Bandhu volunteers visit and befriend Hindu aged home residents and conduct devotional activities. Our volunteers resumed in-person visits to the following homes.

- Ren Ci Ang Mo Kio Home
- Ren Ci Bukit Batok Home

A Bandhu volunteer recruitment drive and training were conducted in September 2023. Five volunteers completed the Bandhu training.

In October 2023, our Bandhu volunteers accompanied the Ren Ci home residents to Little India to witness the Deepavali light up, visit the Sri Veeramakaliamman Temple, and have dinner at the Greenleaf Café. **Dhanam has been our long-standing Bandhu volunteer.**

Mantranam

In 2023, one spouse was counselled on her marital issues by our volunteer professional counsellor.

11 Book Sales

Books sales are held at temples during periods of high traffic, for example on all Saturdays of Puratassi at Sri Perumal Temple, Mahasivarathri at Sri Sivan Temple and Layan Sitthi Vinayagar Temple during Vinayagar Chaturti. This year's sales revenue has been one of the highest in recent years, amounting to \$7000.

Book sales is also one of HC's key interfaces with the Singapore Hindu public. We provide a wide range of books from ancient classics to contemporary bestsellers. A new group of committed volunteers are helping out with the book sales. This not only includes whole day presence at the sales counter, but also selecting, purchasing and couriering the books to Singapore. The book sales team is led by S Anuradha.



Going forward, we have ideas to add festive gift packs (comprising a book, snack, and decorative item) and also to widen the reach to more temples.

12 Volunteer Management and Engagement

As HC had lost many volunteers during the Covid period, effort was focused on the recruitment and training of new volunteers. In 2023, Hindu Centre dedicated significant efforts to enhance volunteer management, aiming to optimise volunteer utilisation, streamline processes, and foster a sense of community engagement.

Templates were prepared for volunteers' inquiries to streamline the volunteer registration process and effectively manage commitments. Upon receiving volunteer registrations through various platforms, they would receive the appropriate responses based on their indicated interests. This facilitated a more efficient process, saving time and ensuring that committed volunteers were recruited.

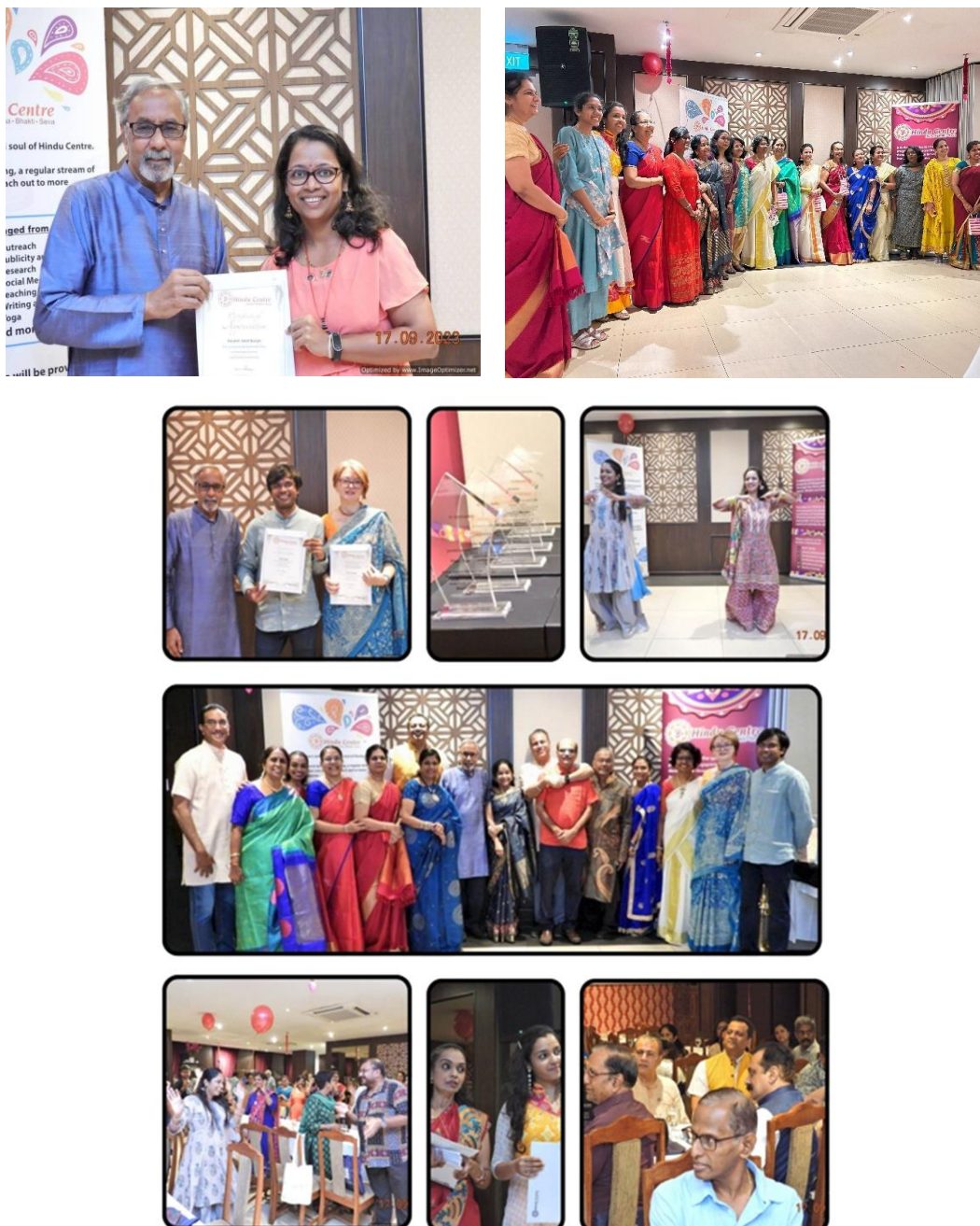
In March, a basic course on Hinduism was organised for potential volunteers, attracting over 25 registrants. While feedback from participants indicated high satisfaction levels and a keen interest in contributing to the Centre's activities, only 20% of participants continued their involvement in volunteer activities. This highlighted the need for tailored volunteer training workshops to ensure sustained engagement.

Between April and August, efforts were made to recruit volunteers for various programs, including Yuva Shakthi, Communication & Outreach, and Mitra. Successful recruitment resulted in the addition of four volunteers to Yuva Shakthi and six volunteers to

Communication & Outreach, and connected volunteers who had expressed interest in Mitra prison counselling service.

An appreciation dinner was organised for the Hindu Centre volunteers and partners, acknowledging their invaluable contributions. A certificate of appreciation was given to each volunteer and a token of appreciation to supporting partners. The event was appreciated by everyone and we are committed to ensuring our volunteers' welfare and well-being.

By implementing targeted strategies, streamlining processes, and soliciting feedback, improvements were made to the volunteer management framework to benefit the Centre and the broader community.



13 Major Projects

(a) Sari Mela

Arising from a suggestion from a volunteer (Dr Uma Jayaraman), we undertook a project which became a much bigger enterprise than envisaged initially. We called for donations of pre-loved saris to be given away to foreign domestic workers and also to be sold at give-away prices. A call for used saris resulted in a huge overflow of donations of new and used saris as seen in these pictures.

After two months of sorting and pricing according to quality and material, a sale was held at PGP Hall as well as given away to FDW's.

Over \$7000 was raised from this project, which was led by Dr Uma Jayaraman and the efforts of countless dedicated volunteers. The project attracted the attention of the media and also many members of the community who continue to ask when the next drive will be!



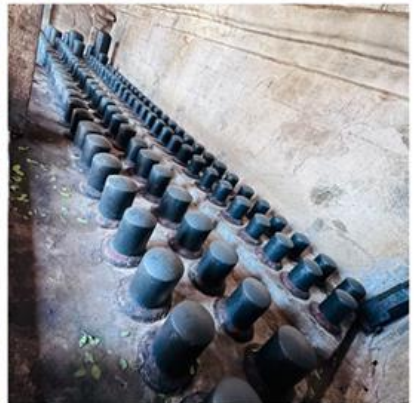


(b) South India Yatra

For the first time, Hindu Centre organised a Yatra to major pilgrimage sites and temples in South India. Nine pilgrims participated in this tour (including one Chinese lady, visiting more than 15 important temples and places.

Their itinerary was:

Singapore - Guruvayur – Marudhamalai – Perur Shiva - Patteeswarar – Adhiyoga – Dhyanalinga – Palani – Madurai Meenakshiamman – Thirupurakundram – Pillayarpathi – Pudukotai Bhuvaneswari – Sri Rangam Ranganathaswamy – Trichy Uttchi Pillayar – Tanjavur Brahadeeshwar – Kumbakonam – Swamimalai – Chidambaram Natarajar – Auroville – Thiruvannamalai – Kanchipuram – Chennai – Singapore.



14 Beneficiary and Volunteer Hours

Activity	Programme	Number of Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Number of Beneficiaries	Beneficiary Hours
Seva	Mitra	30	3,000	200	20,000
	Bandhu	3	108	12	180
Jnana	1. In House Talks	9	12	154	30
	2. Online Talks	2	3	25	35
	3. Workshops	9	30	140	420
	4. Course	8	35	80	600
	5. Pustaka	3	10	20	160
	6. Yoga	22	73	536	964
	7. Balagurukulam	7	460	50	2,000
Bhakti	1. In House Events	15	2,000	500	5,000
	2. On Line Events	5	1,300	50	2,000
Book Sales	Shivarathri				
	Ganesh Chaturthi	10	1,000	2,000	2,000
	Puratassi Saturdays				
Sari Mela		15	200	200	NA
Research & Publications	Om kara/Parenting Book. Beneficiaries are readers.	8	200	1,000	NA
Volunteer Management	Volunteer Recruitment and training	10	200	300	800
Management Committee	Strategy, planning, execution and outreach	16	5,000	Public	NA
Total (2023)		172	13,631	5,267	34,189
Total (2022)		117	9,015	1,441	35,122
Total (2021)		146	4,373	3,529	23,648

*excluding Rakshabandhan events and readership of publications.

15 Communications and Outreach

We continue to improve our social media presence on WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram with regular posts. This has increased our reach significantly. Lately, we have been trying out short video reels. Unfortunately, we do not have any dedicated volunteer who has experience in this area to take the lead to create more content for us.

We continue to have our website and use our email database to mail out news of events and happenings. Once again, the website requires renewal and we require a volunteer for that.

16 Administration

Staff

Hindu Centre has now two part time staff, one supporting us in our events and other outreach work, and the other staff's role is purely administrative managing the office support, finance related matters, bookkeeping, general premises maintenance, etc.

The second staff's role is event management. This role is about managing the external events, HC calendar, outreach and working closely with the Bhakti and Educomm teams.

Premises Management

The Centre had its fair share of maintenance and upkeep that was taken care of. We had minor repairs, aircon servicing and plumbing work done. Several repair and replacement works were undertaken during the year, including replacing all the lights to energy-saving LED lights, replacing the bookshelf, plumbing works, and structural inspection, repairs and certification.

The cost of the bookshelf of \$3450 was partly met with generous donations from Revathy's family (\$1000) and Anuradha/Shanthi Ravindran (\$1000).

We had a set of standees made for the Centre for publicity purposes. Regular renewals of licensing for the building, electrical systems and newspaper permits. Hindu Centre premises are also being used by other organisations for their events and this helps to keep the space busy on some days when there are no inhouse events.

Finance and Accounting

We have moved our accounts to Zoho Books from the earlier Quickbooks and for mailing out to Zoho Campaigns from Mailchimp. We are now able to track our expenses and revenues in a more timely manner.

17 External Engagements

(a) President represented HC at an inter-faith event organised by Jamiyah Singapore called Interfaith Harmony Seminar for youths from SE Asia.



(b) He also spoke at a seminar organised by the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership (CNPL) on Governance in the Charity Sector.



(c) Dr Uma Jayaraman represented Hindu Centre at a session on Women’s Greatest Role Models as part of their Harmony Raya event, graced by then-President Halimah Yaacob.



(d) We also hosted an event for the Sri Aurobindo Society, namely a book discussion led by Mr Devdip Ganguli on the life and writings of Sri Aurobindo on his 150th anniversary of his birth. It was moderated by Mr Manu Kohli, MC member.



(e) We also hosted a tour of Sri Perumal Temple and a discussion on Hinduism for a group of students from the State University of New York. Mr Shiva Raj led the tour and the discussion.



(f) Ms Shanthy Ravindran attended the Ideation Workshop run by IPS Social Lab on behalf of Hindu Centre to develop an immersive training programme targeted at youths active in Singapore's religious communities. In an open discussion with members from all communities, we talked about the views people outside our communities have about our communities and also how our own youth view our philosophies and practices. Ms S Anuradha attended the following session and we were also invited to test out the immersive programme that they created. Hindu Centre is happy to have contributed to making Singapore a better place for our youth.

IPS Programme on Race, Religion, and Intergroup Cohesion
Ideation Workshop
26 May 2023



 **NUS** Lee Kuan Yew
School of Public Policy
National University of Singapore

 **IPS** Institute of
Policy Studies

 **TEMASEK**
FOUNDATION

The Silent Foundation
an act of silent endurance

 **social**
lab

In September 2023, A/Prof Chitra Sankaran gave a 1 hour lecture to Masters students at the Buddhist College on the significance of Penance during Thaipusam.

18 Looking Ahead

While we are doing well in creating increased participation and activities for all segments of Hindu society and are well-respected, we need to continuously improve our offerings and reach. Among the areas to be addressed are:

- (a) Participant demographics
- (b) Quality vs quantity
- (c) Increasing Bhakti reach
- (d) Longer term classes
- (e) Social media presence

- (f) Higher participation – virtual audience
- (g) Activities for youth
- (h) Community partnerships
- (i) Long term funding for sustenance

19 Partnerships

We thank the following organisations who supported Hindu Centre during 2023.

- Hindu Endowments Board
- Singapore Prison Service
- Ministry of Social and Family Development
- Indian High Commission (IDY)
- Vyasa Yoga Singapore
- Gita Reading Society
- Arya Samaj Singapore
- Krishna Premi Satsanga
- Singapore Dhakshina Bharatha Brahmana Sabha
- Gita Jayanti Committee
- SP Shree Lakshmi Narayan Temple
- S Rajaratnam School of Strategic Studies, NTU
- Haridas, Ho and Partners
- Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple
- Sri Vadapathira Kaliyamman Temple
- Sri Sivan Temple
- BAPS Singapore
- Beej Utsav Group
- Sri Aurobindo Society
- Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society
- Ojas Yoga

20 Acknowledgements

Hindu Centre deeply and gratefully appreciates the contributions of our dedicated volunteers, our members and donors, partners and the community at large for supporting us in our mission.